

MINUTES OF BENTON COUNTY QUORUM COURT

December 18, 2014

A regular meeting of the Benton County Quorum Court was held on Thursday, December 18, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at the Benton County Administration Building, 215 East Central Avenue, Bentonville, Arkansas, pursuant to proper call and notice.

County Judge Robert D. Clinard called the meeting to order.

Quorum Court Coordinator Janet Reaves called roll as follows:

15 JPs Present: McKenzie, Hernandez, J. Harrison, Allen, K. Harrison, Adams, Jones, Sandlin, Anglin, Chiocco, Curry, Carr, Moore, Meyers, Moehring

A legal quorum was present.

The presiding officer led the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Pastor Bill Rogers with Word of Life Church led the prayer.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

None

MINUTES:

JP J. Harrison made motion to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2014 Quorum Court meeting as distributed, seconded by JP Carr.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Minutes approved.

ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORTS:

None

COUNTY JUDGE'S REPORT:

County Judge Bob Clinard reported that: 1) Courthouse roof is all but complete. He stated we are looking at options for design layout, financing, phasing and location for the new facility. He stated that bids will be taken on the first phase using the Walton Foundation Grant money for the exterior water proofing and maintenance; 2) Fisher Ford Bridge is now complete and open; 3) Colonel Meyers Bridge is also complete and open; 4) the request made with the City of Bentonville for State Aid for improving NE J Street from Tiger Blvd to Price Coffee Road has been approved; 5) construction is underway on completion of the remaining flood damaged

roads and the work will be complete by the end of January; 6) discussions are ongoing about the county's involvement with road access to the new Bentonville West High School.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

JP Allen reported that a Finance Committee meeting was held December 04, 2015 immediately followed by a Finance Budget Committee meeting.

JP Curry reported that a Transportation Committee meeting was held November 13, 2014, and that Ozark Regional Transit Executive Director Joel Gardner gave a report on the organization's 2014 accomplishments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

JP J. Harrison made motion to suspend the rules and read all ordinances and resolutions by title only, seconded by JP Carr.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS

- (A) Proposed Ordinance Setting the Penalty for Delinquent Timber Taxes;
Sponsor: JP Barry Moehring

County Attorney George Spence read the proposed resolution by title only.

JP Moehring made motion to adopt, seconded by JP J. Harrison.

There being no discussion, a roll call vote was recorded as follows:

15 Yeas: McKenzie, Hernandez, J. Harrison, Allen, K. Harrison, Adams,
Jones, Sandlin, Anglin, Chiocco, Curry, Carr, Moore, Meyers,
Moehring

First reading passed.

- (B) Proposed Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. O-2014-24 to set the Per Diem Compensation for Justices of the Peace Attending Meetings of the Quorum Court; Sponsor: JP Joel Jones

County Attorney George Spence read the proposed ordinance by title only.

JP Jones stated that this ordinance is to increase the per-diem for all meetings by Twenty-five dollars, and it is the only raise that the JP's have had since 2009. He stated that there is never a good time to give ourselves raises. He said if we try to do it before the primary before anybody runs, we do not know what the picture of the budget is going to look like for the following year and that it looks really bad if we give ourselves a raise when we do not give the employees a raise. He stated that they were surprised for multiple reasons this year, on the passage of the millage and a better look on property taxes. JP Jones stated that this is a good as time as any to increase the per-diem and will not likely be increased for years to come and made motion to approve, seconded by JP Carr.

JP Anglin publically thanked all of the citizens for supporting the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) millage. She said that because of their support it is enabling the county to continue all the services in Benton County.

She said that she knew she was in a minority but she still wanted to voice her opposition to the raises. She said she considered her position on the Quorum Court a matter of public service and she could not support the raises.

There being no further discussion, a roll call vote was recorded as follows:

11 Yeas:	McKenzie, Hernandez, K. Harrison, Adams, Jones, Sandlin, Chiocco, Curry, Carr, Moore, Meyers,
4 Nays:	J. Harrison, Allen, Anglin, Moehring.

First reading passed.

(C) Proposed Appropriation Ordinance to Establish the Benton County Annual Operating Budget for the Calendar Year 2015; Sponsor: JP Tom Allen

County Attorney George Spence read the proposed appropriation ordinance by title only.

JP Allen stated that the budget process went a lot smoother that he thought it would, and that he wanted to thank all the citizens of Benton County for their involvement with the millage increase. He stated that all of the Elected Officials and the Department Heads had done a great job cutting their budgets, and made motion to approve, seconded by JP Jones.

JP Allen questioned if the justice of the peace per-diem increase had been included in the 2015 budget.

Comptroller Brenda Guenther stated that the justice of the peace per-diem increase had been included in the 2015 budget.

There being no further discussion, a roll call vote was recorded as follows:

15 Yeas: McKenzie, Hernandez, J. Harrison, Allen, K. Harrison, Adams,
Jones, Sandlin, Anglin, Chiocco, Curry, Carr, Moore, Meyers, Moehring

Ordinance duly adopted and assigned **No. O-2014-84**

Other Business

None

Announcements

County Judge Robert Clinard announced that the Quorum Court Organizational meeting will be held Thursday, January 10, 2015 at 11:30 a.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the court, upon motion and second the meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tena O'Brien
County Clerk
Prepared by Janet Reaves